

Message Text

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USICA FOR EU, PGM/PPE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR, CSCE
SUBJECT: IZVESTIA ARTICLE ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE BY
SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE

1. AUGUST 23 IZVESTIA CARRIES 5-COLUMN ARTICLE IN
MIDDLE OF PAGE 5 BY USSR DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE
VLADIMIR POPOV. ARTICLE ENTITLED "CULTURAL EXCHANGES
AND ILL-WISHERS". SHORT TASS ENGLISH SUMMARY ON SAME
DAY OMITTED, HOWEVER, REFERENCES TO USICA AND TO 20TH
CENTURY FUND REPORT ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AS WELL AS
FOLLOW-UP ON MENTION OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
AS GOOD GUY IN TAKING SERIOUS, SOBER APPROACH TO
CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

2. POPOV, WHO HAS AUTHORED PREVIOUS ARTICLES ON
CULTURAL EXCHANGES CITING GOOD RECORD OF SOVIETS,
MOST RECENTLY IN SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA'S PAGE DEVOTED
TO 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI ACCORDS, GOES OVER
THE STANDARD STATISTICAL MATERIAL. IN THIS, HE
DEVIATES FROM THE USUAL IN TWO SPECIFIC CASES.
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FIRST, HE CONTRASTS GOOD-INTENTIONED SOVIETS, WHO
INCLUDE IN THEIR NEW CONSTITUTION CITIZENS' RIGHTS
TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS,
WITH REACTIONARY CIRCLES IN IMPERIALISTIC COUNTRIES,
WHICH IMPEDE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. AMONG THOSE
WHO "SUBSTITUTE PROPAGANDISTIC FIREWORKS FOR
CULTURAL COOPERATION," POPOV SPECIFIES USICA AND

AUTHORS OF THE 20TH CENTURY FUND REPORT ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES. SECOND, NEW ANGLE IS USE OF WEST GERMANY AS SHINING EXAMPLE OF COUNTRY WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH HAS SEEN THE LIGHT OF BREZHNEV'S CULTURAL POLITICS AND IS ENTERING INTO MORE AND VARIED CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH THE USSR. ALSO MENTIONED IN ARTICLE IS LACK OF LONG-AWAITED TOUR IN USSR BY LEADING AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS (A THEME PICKED UP BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY'S IMPRESSARIO BRANCH, GOSKONTSERT, IN AUGUST 23 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY'S ACAO FOR PERFORMING ARTS (MOSCOW 20336)). THIS LACK IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE NEED FOR SUBSIDIES AND, ACCORDING TO POPOV, "MONEY IS SHORT WHEN THE OFFICIAL ORGANIZERS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN A NUMBER OF CAPITALISTIC COUNTRIES BEND THEIR EFFORTS IN ANOTHER DIRECTION."

3. INFORMING READERS THAT NOT LONG AGO A NEW U.S. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED WITH A PERSONNEL ROSTER OF 9,000 AND A 1979 BUDGET OF \$408 MILLION, NONE OF WHICH WILL GO TO SUBSIDIZE ADDITIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGES, POPOV QUOTES ICA DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHARLES BRAY AS DEFINING THE AGENCY'S SPECIFIC ORIENTATION AS THE DISSEMINATION OF AMERICA'S IDEAS BEYOND ITS FRONTIERS.

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4. POPOV WRITES THAT AMERICAN ANALYSTS OF CULTURAL TIES WITH THE USSR OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS EQUALLY OPENLY REJECT THE THOUGHT THAT THESE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP. THE AUTHORS OF A PAMPHLET PUBLISHED LAST YEAR BY THE 20TH CENTURY FUND LOOK UPON CULTURAL EXCHANGE AS A MEANS OF STUDYING ANOTHER COUNTRY IN ORDER TO EVALUATE ITS FUTURE ACTIONS, WHICH POPOV INTERPRETS AS A MEANS OF IDEOLOGICAL SPYING.

5. AMERICANS ARE PRESUMABLY AMONG THE WESTERN IDEALOGUES WHO MOUTH WORDS ABOUT CULTURAL COOPERATION WHILE INTRODUCING INTO THIS "A THICK CONCOCTION OF POLITICAL PROVOCATION" AND SUPPORTING DISSIDENTS WHOSE LACK OF TALENT WAS EVIDENT AT LAST YEAR'S VENICE BIENNALE. AMERICANS ARE, HOWEVER, LATER COUNTED AMONG THE CAPITALISTIC COUNTRIES WITH WHOM THE GROWTH IN THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE IS CONTINUING WITH THE MOSCOW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'S TOUR OF THE U.S. CONCLUDING THE LIST OF SOVIET PERFORMERS AND GROUPS APPEARING ABROAD THIS YEAR.

6. BOURGEOIS MASS MEDIA MERIT A PARAGRAPH OF POPOV'S DIATRIBE AGAINST THOSE WHO SLANDER SOVIET ART. THE "TENDENTIOUS COVERAGE OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES" BY SOME WESTERN PAPERS HAS TURNED INTO A "SPECIALTY" WHICH, WHILE DOOMED TO FAILURE IN THE LONG RUN, HAS TEMPORARY INFLUENCE. ACCORDING TO POPOV, THE "CAM-PAIGN FANNED UP ... AROUND THE CRIMINALS WHO VIOLATED OUR COUNTRY'S LAWS, AND WERE JUSTLY CONDEMNED BY SOVIET COURTS, SCARED SOME WEAK-NERVED INDIVIDUALS

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WHO REFUSED TO ATTEND EVENTS THAT WERE PLANNED BEFOREHAND."

7. BEFORE WINDING UP HIS ARTICLE IN THE SOCIALIST-REALIST ARTISTIC TRADITION OF SOVIET CULTURAL WORKERS HOLDING HIGH THE CPSU BANNER OF DETENTE AND PEACE THROUGH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL TIES, POPOV PRAISES WEST GERMANY FOR FOLLOWING UP ON CPU GENERAL-SECRETARY AND PRESIDUM PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S VISIT THERE WITH INCREASED AND MORE VARIED PROPOSALS FOR CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN USSR AND FRG. TOON

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